

## **REMARKS**

The Examiner has required Applicant to elect a set of claims for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Examiner has directed that the election be made between the following groups that the Examiner has determined to be patentably distinct:

- I. Claims 1-40, 51-67, 102 and 103, drawn to a method for improving the biocompatibility of a surgical implant or component, classified in class 433, subclass 201.1.
- II. Claims 41-50, drawn to a method, classified in class 427, subclass 2.24.
- III. Claims 68-101, drawn to a biocompatible surgical implant, classified in class 623, subclass 16.11.

Applicant elects group I. Therefore, Applicant withdraws claims 41-50, 68-101 from consideration. Claims 1-40, 51-67, 102 and 103 are readable upon the elected species.

In the event there are additional charges in connection with the filing of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account No. 50-0714/LYNN-0173.C of the firm of the below-signed attorney in the amount of any necessary fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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